

Job Sheet for

Hedgerow Planting as Wildlife Habitat

(422, 645)

Purpose: A **hedgerow** is a strip of natural woody and herbaceous vegetation to provide wildlife with food and cover, protect growing crops from wind-born soil particles, as well as to reduce soil erosion by the wind.

Requirements:

- Hedgerows are to be created by natural succession or supplemental planting.
- **Minimum width 25 feet**
- Plantings should be made in multiple rows with spacing to accommodate adequate growth for the species used.
- The center row should consist of the tallest-growing species of native woody vegetation (tree) and the average height of the vegetation should decrease down to the outermost rows of native herbaceous vegetation.
 - Note: All plant species used should either benefit wildlife as either food or cover. *Native species should be planted whenever possible.*
- Soil preparation: Soil should be prepared by conventional disking methods, or in some cases, such as with a prevalence of sod-forming grass competition like fescue or bermuda grass, the site should be prepared by treating with herbicides prior to planting seedlings. After planting, pack soil firmly around roots and protect plants from damage by traffic, fire, livestock, and weed competition.
 - Note: Fertilizer may be used to improve productivity of fruit-bearing vegetation.
- Spacing:
 - **Trees** should be planted 12 feet apart
 - **Shrubs** should be planted 6 feet apart
- On pastureland, protect hedgerow from grazing



Maintenance:

- Competition from invasive species should be controlled by mowing between rows or spot herbicide treatment until hedgerow is established.

Suggested Plantings:

- **Trees and Shrubs:** wild cherry, persimmon, flowering dogwood, red cedar, American elderberry, sassafras, wild plum, muscadine grape, crabapple, wax myrtle, and various species of oaks and other suitable hardwoods

Primary Habitat Consideration:

- Natural food and cover for quail, rabbits, and various songbirds
- Create travel corridors for all wildlife

Site Specific Comments and Recommendations:

USDA-NRCS Georgia
July 1999

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